

## **Medicare Rx Update: September 1, 2006**

### **Pharmacy Open Door Forum... Wednesday, September 6th**

CMS will be hosting the next Pharmacy Open Door forum on September 6, 2006 at 2 PM EST. To participate, please dial 1-800-837-1935 and reference conference ID 2508222. TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the hearing impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here: <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html> A relay communications assistant will provide assistance.

### **Do you have your NPI yet? Join the CMS NPI Roundtable September 26, 2006**

As you know, all Medicare providers, including pharmacists, must begin using the NPI in standard transactions no later than May 23, 2007. CMS will host a national NPI Roundtable, open to all health care professionals, on Tuesday, September 26, from 2:00-3:30 PM ET. To participate, you may call 1-877-203-0044, pass code 4795739. Medicare providers who have questions should select the appropriate email subject below and send in questions by Friday, September 8. Questions received after this date may not be considered during the discussion.

- Fiscal Intermediaries: [NPIQuestionsfromFIBillers@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NPIQuestionsfromFIBillers@cms.hhs.gov).
- Carriers: [NPIQuestionsfromCarrierBillers@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NPIQuestionsfromCarrierBillers@cms.hhs.gov)
- Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERC): [NPIQuestionsfromDMERCBillers@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NPIQuestionsfromDMERCBillers@cms.hhs.gov)

More information and education on the NPI can be found at the CMS NPI page: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvidentStand> Providers can apply for an NPI online or can call the NPI enumerator to request a paper application at 1-800-465-3203: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do> Getting an NPI is free...not having one can be costly.

### **Deficit Reduction Act of 2005... 9-Day Payment Hold for Medicare Parts A & B**

A brief hold will be placed on Medicare payments for all Part A & B claims during the last 9 days of the Federal fiscal year (September 22 through September 30, 2006). These payment delays are mandated by section 5203 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. No interest will be accrued and no late penalties will be paid to an entity or individual by reason of this one-time hold on payments. All claims held during this time will be paid on October 2, 2006. Payments to pharmacies for Medicare Part D claims will not be affected. For more information, please click here: [http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cmshhs.cfg/php/enduser/std\\_adp.php?p\\_faqid=7416](http://questions.cms.hhs.gov/cgi-bin/cmshhs.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=7416)

### **Part D Premium processing error...**

Some people with Medicare received refunds for the premiums they paid for their prescription drug plan in their August Social Security benefit checks or their Social Security direct deposits. Beneficiaries that received this extra payment will not lose any of their Medicare drug coverage and were sent a letter explaining the processing error earlier this week. Medicare will release a letter to affected beneficiaries that will explain their options to return the money. Questions about Medicare's error or the extra payment in Social Security payments should be directed to 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Sign up for the **PHARMACY\_MMA-L** list to receive the Medicare Rx Update at:  
<http://new.cms.hhs.gov/apps/maillinglists/>